

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 06893 01 OF 02 280759Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----059745 280801Z /11

O 271650Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8429

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 6893

NODIS

FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PFOR, US, TS  
SUBJ: HABIB MEETING WITH HEDDA

REF: (A) TUNIS 6772; (B) STATE 227743; (C) STATE 227725;  
(D) TUNIS 6730; (E) STATE 226021

1. SUMMARY: IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE, SPENT THREE DAYS IN TUNIS RETURNING THIS MORNING TO PARIS. HE HAD THREE MEETINGS TOTALING TEN HOURS WITH HABIB ACHOUR, ONE MEETING LASTING THREE HOURS WITH PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA AND TWO MEETINGS TOTALING FIVE HOURS WITH ME. HE FOUND ACHOUR CHASTENED BUT STILL SECURELY IN CONTROL OF THE UNION GENERALE DES TRAVAILLEURS TUNISIENS (UGTT). NOUIRA TOLD BROWN HE WANTS TO HEAL BITTERNESS OF RECENT PARTY-UNION CLASH AND WILL MAINTAIN MORE FREQUENT DIRECT CONTACT WITH ACHOUR IN FUTURE. NOUIRA ALSO AGREED WITH BROWN ON A MOVE, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PRESIDENT SADAT'S COLLABORATION, INTENDED TO KEEP THE U.S. IN THE ILO OR, AT LEAST, TO MAKE IT EASY FOR U.S. TO RETURN TO ILO IF CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE CHOOSES OUR WITHDRAWAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LONG TALKS WITH ACHOUR, BROWN SAID, HE TOOK GREAT PAINS TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER ACHOUR COLLABORATION WITH EX-FOREIGN

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MINISTER MOUSTAPHA MASMOUDI. HE FOUND ACHOUR STILL MUMBLING ABOUT STAGING A GENERAL STRIKE, BUT LED HIM THROUGH THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DAMAGE SUCH A STRIKE WOULD DO TO THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNMENT, AND TO THE WORKERS THEMSELVES. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE AGING ACHOUR HAD NOT THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH RASHNESS. AS ACHOUR TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK, HE NOW PLANS TO GIVE NOUIRA A FEW MONTHS TO GET PRICES OF BASIC

COMMODITIES DOWN BEFORE BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOT UNDER JANUARY 1977 "SOCIAL PACT" FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF WAGE INCREASES. BROWN IS OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL SEE AT LEAST A FEW MONTHS OF PEACE ON THE LABOR FRONT.

3. CHOUR TOLD BROWN LITTLE WE HAVE NOT ALREADY REPORTED ON THE VICIOUS IN-FIGHTING WHICH CAME WITHIN AN ACE OF GETTING ACHOUR EXPELLED FROM THE PSD. HE AGREES WITH OUR CONCLUSION THAT INTERIOR MINISTER TAHAR BELKHODJA'S SUPPORT SAVED ACHOUR'S PARTY STATUS AND HAS INCURRED A UGTT OBLIGATION WHICH WILL STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD WHEN THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP NEXT OPENS UP. THOSE OUT TO GET ACHOUR WERE LED BY MOHAMED SAYAH, PSD DIRECTOR, AND ABDALLAH FARHAT, DEFENSE MINISTER. NOUIRA, AS PSD SECRETARY GENERAL, MAINTAINED A UDICIOUS NEUTRALITY BUT, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A POLITICAL BUREAU MAJORITY WHICH FAVORED STRIPPING ACHOUR OF HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES, PLACED ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S DESK A DOSSIER DOCUMENTING ALLEGEDACHOUR MALFEASANCE IN HANDLING UGTT FUNDS. BOURGUIBA HIMSELF MADE THE DECISION TO KEEP ACHOUR IN THE PARTY BUT LATER GAVE HIM A SEVERE REPRIMAND AND WARNING.

4. IRVING BROWN DISCUSSED THE RECENT PARTY-UGTT IMBROGLIO WITH NOUIRA, WHO BELIEVES PEACE HAS BEEN RESTORED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. PRIMIN WAS VERY GRATEFUL TO BROWN FOR TIME HE TOOK TO TALK SENSE WITH ACHOUR. UPON MY PRIOR URGING, BROWN STRONGLY ADVISED NOUIRA, BASICALLY AN ECONOMIC ANIMAL, TO  
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GIVE MORE OF HIS ATTENTION TO THE LABOR SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY AND TO STOP LETTING UGTT COMPLAINTS GO UNANSWERED. HE PROMISED BROWN HE WOULD HANDLE RELATIONS WITH ACHOUR DIRECTLY IN FUTURE AND SEE HIM OFTEN FOR DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT INTERMEDIARIES.

5. ILO PLAN:IRVING BROWN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS TIME WITH NOUIRA TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF OUR ILO MEMBERSHIP, RECEIVING NOUIRA'S OUTSPOKEN REITERATION OF GOT'S HOPE USG WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO REMAIN IN ILO. HE ASKED BROWN WHAT TUNISIA COULD DO TO HELP KEEP U.S. IN. FROM THIS DISCUSSION EMERGED A PLAN WHICH BROWN THINKS HAS SOME VERY USEFUL FEATURES AND SOME POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS. HE HOPES YOU WILL TAKE IT UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH SECRETARY VANCE AS ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON ITS BEING HANDLED VERY DISCREETLY AND AT ABSOLUTELY TOP LEVELS OF U.S., TUNISIAN AND EGYTIAN GOVERNMENTS. TO INSURE THE "BROWN-NOUIRA PLAN" IS PROPERLY PRESENTED TO WASHINGTON I ASKED IRVING TO WRITE IT OUT HIMSELF. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPTION OF HIS NOTE:

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8430

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 6893

NODIS

FOR HABIB

QTE A. NOUIRA IS PREPARED TO CO-SPONSOR A RESOLUTION WITH SADAT AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO (NOVEMBER, 1977) CALLING FOR A SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILO IN 1978 AND PREFERABLY IN MARCH 1978. THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE POINT ON THE AGENDA, NAMELY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS WHICH REJECTED THREE ABSTENTIONS IN THE JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE. IT IS TO BE AGREED THAT BOTH NOUIRA AND SADAT WOULD SECURE AN AGREEMENT WITH OTHER ARAB STATES TO ADOPT THE REPORT (THEY MAY POSSIBLY PERMIT STATES TO REGISTER RESERVATIONS FOR THE RECORD).

QTE B. THEY (NOUIRA AND SADAT) WOULD HOPE THAT A GUARANTEE BY THEM PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 4 CABINET LEVEL MEETING ON THE ILO WOULD LEAD TO A DECISION OF THE U.S. A. TO PROLONG THEIR NOTICE OF WITDRAWAL FOR ONE YEAR. HOWEVER, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND THE U.S. A. WITHDRAWS AS PER THE LETTER OF 1975, THEN IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NOUIRA AND SADAT WOULD STILL PUSH FOR A SPECIAL CONFERENCE. IF AND WHEN THIS IS ACHIEVED AND THE REPORT IS REVIEWED AND ADOPTED, THE U.S. A. WOULD THEN BE READY TO RETURN TO THE ILO BEFORE NEXT JUNE.

QTE C. NOUIRA PROPOSES THAT THE U.S.A. TAKE THIS INITIATIVE IMMEDIATELY WITH SADAT. THE LATTER IS TO BE TOLD THAT NOUIRA  
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HAS INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CO-SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION FOR THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE. IF THE U.S. A. DOESN'T WANT TO BE THE INITIATOR OR IF THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH SADAT THEN NOUIRA IS READY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE HIMSELF. UNQTE

7. COMMENT: I ASKED IRVING WHOSE BASIC IDEA THIS WAS. HE SMILED AND SAID, "LET'S JUST SAY IT EVOLVED". HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS THE U.S. WHICH SHOULD BROACH THE SUBJECT WITH SADAT IN THE FIRST PLACE. NOUIRA WILL WAIT FOR SADAT'S REACTION AND THEN COLLABORATE WITH HIM ON THE NEXT STEPS NECESSARY. NOUIRA TOLD BROWN HE PREFERS U.S. REACTION BMZKJSSED TO HIM THROUGH ME. IRVING ENDORSES THIS ALSO (A) BECAUSE HE WANTS HIS OWN ROLE IN IT DOWNPLAYED (PERHAPS DUE TO HIS NOT EXACTLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN LABOR HIERARCHY AT PRESENT) AND (B) BECAUSE HE WANTS IT TO APPEAR TO SANDPPAS A TUNISIAN INITIATIVE. NOUIRA WISHES SAME THING AND WILL USE HIS MEETING WITH ME TO REITERATE THE PROPOSAL, AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THEREBY ALLOW ME TO REPORT IT TO WASHINGTON IN A MESSAGE CHANNEL AFFORDING WIDER DISTRIBUTION. NOW, IN VIEW OF THE TIME ELEMENT INVOLVED IN CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION, BROWN URGES EARLIEST INITIAL U.S. REACTION BE PASSED TO NOUIRA SOONEST.

8. IRVING WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR OCTOBER 10 CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING, BUT PEPAED TO COME SOONER TO DISCUSS THIS PLAN FURTHER IF YOU THINK HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE USEFUL.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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